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Part II
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Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

(Programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001)

Contents

	Page
Overview	2
Programme of work	4

* The present document contains section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

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Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

(Programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001)

Overview

6.1 In 1959, when space activities were in their infancy, the General Assembly recognized the need for a mechanism to ensure broad international cooperation in space activities. By its resolution 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959, the Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and mandated it to promote international cooperation in space activities, to organize mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research, to encourage and assist the development of national space programmes and to study the nature of legal problems that might arise from the exploration of outer space. That mandate was reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it confirmed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The Assembly requested the Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and making full use of the Secretariat, to maintain close contact with organizations concerned with space activities, as well as to provide for information exchange and assistance in the study of measures for promoting international cooperation in space. Those resolutions, along with the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in 1982 (UNISPACE 82), are the basis for activities that have evolved under programme 3, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1).

6.2 Since UNISPACE 82, the scope and importance of space applications have expanded from a narrow field of science and technology to a wide range of applications that are essential to operational communications, weather forecasting, management of land and ocean resources, early warning of disasters and mitigation of their adverse effects, environmental monitoring, distance education, medical and health services in remote and rural areas and other social and economic activities in virtually every country. Space technology has become an integral part of daily human activities and will further contribute to improving conditions of life in the coming millennium.

6.3 While the end of the cold war enhanced opportunities for international cooperation in space activities between various countries, many countries with space capabilities are facing difficulty in justifying government spending for costly space projects. Offsetting this trend, there has been an increase in the space-related services provided by the private sector on a commercial basis. Thus, the private sector now plays an important role in bringing the benefits of space technology down to the Earth and enhancing international cooperation through commercial activities. It is, therefore, important to take into account the role of the private sector in implementing the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space.

6.4 During the biennium, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will continue to respond to the demand from developing countries for technical assistance in the development of indigenous capability, in particular by providing training opportunities in the use of space technology and technical assistance and advice in implementing pilot projects. On the basis of a survey of views of Member States on the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Office will continue to concentrate its activities on the priority areas of space applications identified by Member States, such as disaster relief and mitigation, protection of the environment and land and water resource management, which will contribute to sustainable development at the regional and global levels. Due consideration will be given to the recommendations of past United Nations conferences relating to socio-economic development, in particular the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at which space technology was identified as a useful tool to monitor the environment and to promote sustainable development. The Office will also strengthen its efforts to promote the innovative use of space technology in carrying out relevant activities of the Organization such as the elimination of illicit drugs and landmine detection.

6.5 International cooperation in the use of space technology constitutes an important part of the United Nations efforts to promote sustainable development, and it will need to be enhanced further in order to ensure that new space technologies benefit all countries and do not increase the gap between the rich and the poor. As a result of the expansion and diversification of space activities and the changing international political and economic environment involving new players in space activities, the United Nations will have to address important new political, economic, technological and legal issues.

6.6 In the light of the above, the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, agreed that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) should be convened in July 1999. During the biennium 2000–2001, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will focus its activities on implementing the action plan to be adopted by UNISPACE III, which is expected to be endorsed by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. It will continue to promote the use of space science and technology applications to solve problems of regional or global significance and to strengthen the capabilities, in particular of developing countries, in the use of these applications for social, economic and cultural development. The Office will implement outreach programmes to increase the awareness of young people and the general public of the benefits of space activities and will involve more space-related industry and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in implementing the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space.

Table 6.1 **Summary by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 664.7	3 313.9	40.5	1.2	3 354.4	115.6	3 470.0
Other staff costs	4.9	45.9	(8.0)	(17.4)	37.9	1.2	39.1
Consultants and experts	18.5	16.3	2.0	12.2	18.3	0.6	18.9
Travel	83.2	104.7	–	–	104.7	5.1	109.8
General operating expenses	–	9.6	41.6	433.3	51.2	1.6	52.8
Hospitality	1.4	2.9	–	–	2.9	–	2.9
Furniture and equipment	9.1	19.7	13.3	67.5	33.0	1.0	34.0
Grants and contributions	329.9	421.8	–	–	421.8	12.7	434.5
Total	**4 111.7**	**3 934.8**	**89.4**	**2.2**	**4 024.2**	**137.8**	**4 162.0**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*2000–2001 estimates*
–	68.0	Other staff costs	20.0
4.8	28.5	Consultants and experts	15.0
58.9	109.5	Travel	90.0
–	1.0	Contractual services	–
–	10.1	Supplies and materials	12.0
–	18.0	Furniture and equipment	15.0
480.9	302.0	Grants and contributions	300.0
544.6	**537.1**		**452.0**
4 656.3	**4 471.9**		**4 614.0**

Table 6.2 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Office for Outer Space Affairs

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998 1999	*2000 2001*	*1998 1999*	*2000 2001*	*1998 1999*	*2000 2001*	*1998 1999*	*2000 2001*
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
P-4/3	8	8	–	–	–	–	8	8
P-2/1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Total	**13**	**13**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**13**	**13**
General Service category								
Other levels	5	5	–	–	–	–	5	5
Total	**5**	**5**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**5**	**5**
Grand total	**18**	**18**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**18**	**18**

Programme of work

6.7 The programme will be implemented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. During the biennium, the programme will be oriented towards achievement of the major objectives identified in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 and new goals mandated by the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space arising from recent international developments, as well as the outcome of UNISPACE III. The Committee meets on an annual basis and has a membership of 61 States.

6.8 The major activities of the Office will include:

(a) Servicing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies and the Working Group of the Whole on space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, and providing assistance to those bodies in the formulation and adoption of legal instruments relating to space activities;

(b) Planning and implementing activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications;

(c) Serving as a focal point for the coordination of space-related activities among the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations;

(d) Acting, on behalf of the Secretary-General, in fulfilment of responsibilities under the terms of space treaties and declarations of legal principles of the United Nations;

(e) Managing an International Space Information Service, including maintenance of the United Nations Register of Information furnished in accordance with article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and dissemination of such information to Member States; acquisition and dissemination of data and information relating to space science and technology and their applications; and maintenance of a database for the use of Member States and space-related international organizations and a home page for public access;

(f) Implementing recommendations of the First, Second and Third United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6.9 During the biennium, the Office will, within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, enrich educational and training programmes and place emphasis on advisory services to implement pilot projects for developing countries in the priority areas of space applications as identified by Member States. For policy makers, particularly those of the developing countries, as well as for the general public and young people, the Office will implement outreach programmes to increase their awareness of the benefits of space activities. The Office also provides expertise through its participation in meetings of space-related international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Office will increase its efforts in identifying areas in which the use of space technology can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of priority activities of the Organization and will implement joint projects with specialized agencies within the United Nations, as appropriate. Through its secretariat services, the Office will assist the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in providing opportunities for space-related industry and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the work of those bodies.

6.10 The action plan and recommendations to be adopted by UNISPACE III could result in new mandates for the Office to lead international initiatives in using space technology for disaster management, protection of the environment, enhancement of educational opportunities and provision of medical and health services in rural and remote areas.

6.11 It is estimated that during the biennium, extrabudgetary resources of $452,000 will be utilized from the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme for Space Applications to supplement resources from the regular budget in the areas of technical advisory services, publication of informational materials, workshops, training courses, seminars and fellowships.

Expected accomplishments

6.12 The expected accomplishments by the end of the biennium will include: better understanding by the policy makers of developing countries of the benefits of space applications for national and regional socio-economic development; effective use of space technology in national and regional initiatives to advance economic and social conditions; optimum use of space technology in carrying out priority activities of the United Nations; and maximization of inputs from non-governmental organizations in pursuing the objectives of the programme.

Outputs

6.13 During the biennium the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) General Assembly

a. Substantive servicing. Working Group of the Whole on space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee (2–4 meetings per year);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

(ii) Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

a. Substantive servicing. Plenary of the Committee (12–15 plenary meetings per year);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Conference room papers (5–7 per year);

(iii) Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

a. Substantive servicing. Plenary and working groups (10 plenary and 10 working group meetings per year);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Legal studies relating to agenda items of the Subcommittee (2–3 studies per year); and conference room papers (6 per year);

c. Other services: maintenance of a public register on objects launched into outer space. Maintenance of a public register and database of information furnished to Member States in the A/AC.105/INF and ST/SC/SER.E series of documents in accordance with the United Nations Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (20 submissions expected from Member States);

(iv) Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

a. Substantive servicing. Plenary and working groups of the Subcommittee (16–17 plenary and 5–6 working group meetings per year);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (1 per year); reports of workshops, training courses, symposia, conferences and seminars organized within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (6–8 reports per year); reports containing submissions by Member States and international organizations on their national space activities (3–4 reports containing 10–15 submissions per year); reports containing submissions by Member States and international organizations on their research on space debris and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space (2–4 reports containing 7–8 submissions per year); technical studies relating to agenda items of the Subcommittee (2–3 studies per year); and conference room papers (6–8 per year);

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Seminars of the United Nations: Selected Papers on Remote Sensing, Satellite Communications and Space Science; Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law*; updates of the *Directory of Fellowships for Education and Training* (1) and the *Directory of Information Systems on Space Science and Technology* (1); and an update of the *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Special publications, articles and reviews relating to United Nations space activities (4–6 per year); and publications, displays and educational materials for distribution at United Nations seminars and workshops (2–3 per year);

(iii) Exhibits and presentations. Maintenance of a permanent exhibit on The benefits of space technology for improving life on Earth and for protecting the environment at the Vienna International Centre; and provision of guided tours to the exhibit and presentations on the works of the Office to Member States and space-related international organizations upon request (5–6 per year);

(iv) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits. Booklet on the activities undertaken within the framework of the action plan of UNISPACE III; and booklet on the activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (1);

(v) Technical material. Internet Web site on the Office for Outer Space Affairs; and maintenance of the database for and operation of the International Space Information Service (ISIS);

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Substantive servicing of the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (5 meetings per year);

(ii) Annual report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

(iii) Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2000 and 2001 and future years, and for 2001 and 2002 and future years;

(iv) Maintenance and improvement of the Internet Web site, to serve as the coordinating node for information relating to space-related activities of the organizations of the United Nations system;

(v) Advisory services to other offices in the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of their activities with the use of appropriate space applications;

(vi) Coordination of activities among the organizations of the United Nations system to implement the recommendations and action plan of UNISPACE III;

(vii) Participation in meetings of space-related international and regional intergovernmental organizations (3 to 4 per year);

(viii) Participation in meetings of space-related international and regional non-governmental organizations (3 to 4 per year);

(d) *Conference services*

Library services. Information, reference and other library services to Member States, other United Nations offices and other organizations through the specialized Office for Outer Space Affairs Reference Centre, providing outer-space-related scientific, technical and legal information, upon request;

(e) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services. Provision of technical advisory services to Member States, as well as international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations on satellite communications, remote sensing, basic space science, satellite meteorology and environmental monitoring to support national and regional programmes and projects in these fields, upon request (8 to 10 per year).

The following technical advisory services are expected in the biennium 2000–2001:

a. Assistance to the *pro tempore* secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas in the preparations for and follow-up to the Conference, which is scheduled for 2000;

b. Assistance in organizing national and regional post-UNISPACE III activities;

c. Follow-up activities to a series of United Nations basic space science workshops;

d. Follow-up activities to a series of international training courses on applications of European remote-sensing satellites and implementation of pilot projects;

e. Technical advisory services to the regional centres for space science and technology education, established in affiliation with the United Nations, in planning and implementing training activities;

f. Technical advisory services to civil protection authorities and other concerned bodies in improving the utilization of space techniques and technology in disaster prevention and management;

g. Technical advisory services to national and regional organizations concerning their participation in the development and implementation of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy.

(ii) Group training (workshops, training courses, symposia and seminars)

a. Workshops and meetings of experts each year in various regions of the world for participants from developing countries on selected topics of space science and technology and its applications (4 or 5 per year);

b. Training courses for participants from developing countries on selected topics dealing with remote sensing, communications, satellite meteorology and space science (2 per year);

c. Workshops for young professionals and students interested in space activities on various scientific and technological, legal and policy issues relating to space activities (1 per year);

d. Workshops and meetings of policy makers of developing countries and managers of space-related industry on space-related products and services (1 per year).

(iii) Fellowships. Administration of 15 to 20 long-term international fellowships in the field of space science and technology offered by Member States as well as space-related intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

6.14 The estimated requirements of $3,354,400 would provide for the continuation of 18 established posts. The growth of $40,500 results from the reclassification of a P-3 to the P-4 level owing to changes in the functions of the post from training activities to greater responsibilities in advisory services on space technology and its applications, in particular in the area of remote sensing.

Other staff costs

6.15 Provisions of $37,900, reflecting a reduction of $8,000, would cover general temporary assistance requirements for replacement of staff on maternity or sick leave and during periods of peak workload prior to and during the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees and their subsidiary bodies, as well as activities related to workshops, seminars and training courses organized under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The reduction in requirements reflects the discontinuation of non-recurrent provisions that had earlier been provided for preparatory activities in connection with UNISPACE III.

Consultants and experts

6.16 Resources in the amount of $18,300 would provide for the preparation of yearly summaries of advances in space science and technology, international cooperation and space law for the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. They would also cover technical or legal studies by consultants engaged through national or international space organizations. The studies would cover specialized topics such as space applications for disaster management, environmental monitoring and management of land and ocean resources.

Travel

6.17 The estimated requirements of $104,700 would provide for the participation of the Expert on Space Applications and the staff of the Office to supervise and conduct seminars, training courses and workshops in the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Travel will also be undertaken to Headquarters to service the Working Group of the Whole of the Fourth Committee on the agenda item entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The provision also includes travel to initiate pilot projects as follow-up to courses and workshops and for technical advisory services to the centres for space science and technology education established in affiliation with the United Nations in the regions of Asia and the Pacific and Africa, the centres to be established in Latin America

and the Caribbean and Western Asia and a network of centres in eastern and central Europe. The coordination and implementation of the action plan and recommendations of UNISPACE III will require travel to be undertaken, including for fund-raising and to space-related intergovernmental meetings.

General operating expenses

6.18 The resource requirements of $51,200, reflecting an increase of $41,600, would provide for the maintenance of data-processing equipment introduced by the United Nations Office at Vienna in response to a recommendation of the Board of Auditors to share common service costs.

Hospitality

6.19 Based on experience for official hospitality and functions in connection with the annual sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and visits by representatives of space agencies that contribute substantial financial and manpower resources to the work of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, an amount of $2,900 is proposed for hospitality.

Furniture and equipment

6.20 The estimated requirements of $33,000, reflecting an increase of $13,300, would provide for the acquisition of a colour printer, a computer overhead projector for multimedia presentations, a notebook personal computer to be utilized during presentations on missions, a multimedia computer with CD ROM, graphics accelerator card, external Iomega zip drive and scanner and the necessary software. Provision is also made for the replacement of office automation equipment.

Grants and contributions

6.21 The requirement of $421,800 relates to the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. It would finance the participation of individuals from developing countries from various regions of the world in workshops, meetings of experts and training courses. The regular budget resources provided for the Programme are supplemented by contributions made to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

Table 6.3 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/7 (Chap. II, Part II))	
The Committee believes that more has been programmed and more reports projected than can reasonably be implemented with the resources available (para. II.51).	The Office has provided to the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Office of Programme Planning, Budgeting and Accounts an interim report on the programme performance during the first half of the biennium 1998–1999, including information on combined reports which had previously been planned to be issued separately. Some reports have been combined to facilitate the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies.
Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/53/16)	
The Committee for Programme and Coordination requested assurances that consultations would be undertaken with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the revisions to the programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (para. 64).	The Office will consult with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the revisions to the medium-term plan and on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 at its 1999 session in July. The request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination did not reach the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or the Office in time for the 1998 session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (2–12 June). The Office intends also to consult the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its proposed medium-term plan for 2002–2005.

Office for Outer Space Affairs: proposed organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2000–2001